WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method for providing information for a user interface having
2   included therein a plurality of regions, the method comprising:
3   defining a plurality of slice locations for a guide region of the user
4   interface, wherein each slice location corresponds to a respective area and location in the
5   guide region;
6   associating a plurality of guide slices for each of at least one slice location
7   in the guide region;
8   encoding one or more guide slices for each slice location in the guide
9   region; and
10   transmitting one or more encoded guide slices for each slice location in the
11   guide region.

1   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   associating one guide slice for each slice location in the guide region not
3   associated with a plurality of guide slices.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of sets of guide slices are
2   transmitted for the plurality of slice locations in the guide region.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of sets of guide slices are
2   transmitted via time division multiplexing.

1   5. The method of claim 3, wherein one set of guide slices is transmitted
2   for each group of pictures (GOP).

1   6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2   time-stamping each set of guide slices for presentation at a designated
3   time.

1   7. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one set of guide slices
2   comprises a partial set of guide slices in the guide region.

1   8. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of sets of guide slices are

2   transmitted with a common packet identifier (PID).

1   9. The method of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of sets of guide

2   slices is transmitted with a respective packet identifier (PID).

1   10. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting includes

2   continually transmitting a first set of guide slices for the plurality of slice

3   locations in the guide region.

1   11. The method of claim 10, wherein the transmitting further includes

2   transmitting one or more additional guide slices at a designated time

1   12. The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more additional guide

2   slices are transmitted in response to a received request for the additional guide slices.

1   13. The method of claim 1, wherein the guide slices transmitted for the

2   guide region are intra-coded.

1   14. The method of claim 1, wherein each transmitted guide slice includes

2   a header indicative of a start location and a stop location for the guide slice.

1   15. The method of claim 1, wherein each transmitted guide slice includes

2   a guide listing for a particular channel in the user interface.

1   16. A method for providing information for a user interface, comprising:

2   defining a plurality of slice locations for at least a portion of the user

3   interface, wherein each slice location corresponds to a respective area and location in the

4   user interface;

5   associating a plurality of slices for each of at least one slice location in the

6   user interface;

7   encoding one or more slices for each slice location in the user interface;

8   and

9   transmitting one or more encoded slices for each slice location in the user

10 interface.

1   17. The method of claim 16, wherein the one or more encoded slices for

2 each slice location includes guide data for an interactive program guide.

1   18. A method for providing a user interface having included therein a

2 plurality of regions, the method comprising:

3   receiving a bitstream comprising packets for a plurality of slices for a

4 guide region of the user interface, wherein each slice is designated for presentation at a

5 particular slice location in the guide region, and wherein multiple slices are transmitted

6 for each of at least one slice location in the guide region;

7   retrieving from the bitstream packets for a set of slices for the guide

8 region; and

9   decoding the retrieved packets to form the guide region of the user

10 interface.

1   19. The method of claim 18, wherein a plurality of sets of slices are

2 received for the guide region, the method further comprising:

3   decoding packets for the plurality of sets of slices; and

4   presenting the plurality of sets of slices in the guide region at times

5 designated by the a header associated with the slices.

1   20. The method of claim 18, wherein the plurality of sets of slices are

2 presented in the user interface via time division multiplexing.

1   21. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2   receiving a user selection for a particular slice location of the guide region;

3   retrieving from the bitstream packets for an additional slice associated with

4 the selected slice location; and

5   decoding the retrieved packets for the additional slice to form an updated

6 user interface having included therein the additional slice.

1   22. The method of claim 18, wherein each slice includes a header
2   indicative of a start location and a stop location for the slice.

1   23. The method of claim 22, wherein the header for each slice is a slice
2   start code defined by MPEG-2 standard.

1   24. The method of claim 22, wherein each decoded slice is presented at a
2   location identified by the header.

1   25. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
2   modifying a particular property of each of one or more decoded slices for
3   presentation at locations on the user interface different from locations identified by
4   headers of the decoded slices.

1   26. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
2   recombining the slices for the guide region with slices for at least one
3   additional region in the user interface.

1   27. The method of claim 26, wherein the recombining is performed in
2   accordance with a splicing syntax defined by MPEG-2 standard.

1   28. A method for providing a user interface, comprising:
2   receiving a bitstream comprising packets for a plurality of slices for the
3   user interface, wherein each slice is designated for presentation at a particular slice
4   location in the user interface, and wherein multiple slices are transmitted for each of at
5   least one slice location in the user interface;
6   retrieving from the bitstream packets for a set of slices for the user
7   interface; and
8   decoding the retrieved packets to form the user interface having included
9   therein the set of slices.

1   29. The method of claim 28, wherein the one or more encoded slices for
2   each slice location includes guide data for an interactive program guide.

1   30. A terminal configured to provide a user interface having includes

2   therein a plurality of regions, comprising:

3   a demodulator operative to receive and demodulate a modulated signal to

4   provide a transport stream;

5   a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to

6   receive and process the transport stream to provide a sequence of packets for a plurality

7   of slices for a guide region of the user interface, wherein each slice is designated for

8   presentation at a particular slice location in the guide region, and wherein multiple slices

9   are transmitted for each of at least one slice location in the guide region; and

10   at least one video decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and

11   operative to receive and decode the sequence of packets to form the guide region of the

12   user interface.

1   31. The terminal of claim 30, further comprising:

2   a controller operative to receive a user selection for a particular slice

3   location in the guide region and to direct the transport de-multiplexer to retrieve, from the

4   transport stream, packets for an additional slice associated with the selected slice location,

5   and

6   wherein the at least one video decoder is further operative to decode the

7   retrieved packets for the additional slice to form an updated user interface having

8   included therein the additional slice.